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May 2, 1997

**Box Patent Application**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application  
Appl. No. To be assigned; Filed: May 2, 1997  
For: Preparation of Extended Shelf-Life Biodegradable, Biocompatible  
Microparticles Containing a Biologically Active Agent  
Inventors: Michael E. Rickey et al.  
Our Ref: 1611.0630002/AGR

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S.  
Patent and Trademark Office (PTO):

1. U.S. Utility Patent Application entitled:

**Preparation of Extended Shelf-Life Biodegradable, Biocompatible  
Microparticles Containing a Biologically Active Agent**

and naming as inventors:

Michael E. Rickey  
J. Michael Ramstack  
Danny H. Lewis  
Jean Mesens

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
May 2, 1997  
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the application consisting of:

a. A specification containing:

- (i) 33 pages of description prior to the claims;
- (ii) 10 pages of claims (52 claims);
- (iii) a one (1) page abstract;

b. 4 sheets of drawings: (Figures 1-4); and

2. Two (2) return postcards.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

This patent application is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)(1) without declaration and without filing fee. This patent application claims priority to provisional application number 60/041,551, filed May 7, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Andrea G. Reister  
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Enclosures

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